building was a dilapidated one. Moreover, as almost the whole space in the building was taken up by the court, travellers were put to much inconvenience.

2. The *chira* near the Perumbavur temple stood in need of urgent improvement.

3. It was necessary to appoint a Sanitary staff to look after the public health of the place which was growing in population and importance. Perumbavur should be made a Conservancy station.

4. The standard of the local Lower Grade English school should be raised, as at present most of the students passing out of the Third Form were not able to go to other places to continue their studies.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the construction of a new building for the Munsiff's Court, an estimate for Rs. 18,000 has been received. Another estimate for Rs. 4,640 has also been received for improving the *chira* near the temple. The latter has been sanctioned and the Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam, requested to include it in the budget for 1095. The other points are noted.

164. Needs of the Town of Parur.

Mr. C. Y. Ramakrishna Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Parur) urged the following as being the needs of the Parur taluk:—

1. Improvement of the Cheriapallithodu. It was 2½ miles long, running through the town from north to south. It should be deepened so as to allow boat traffic.

2. There were 3 tanks in the town, all of which had become unfit for bathing purposes. The Town Improvement Committee had agreed to spend a sum of Rs. 1,000 to repair one of them called the Mukambi tank. The additional amount required for repairing all the three tanks should be sanctioned by Government.

3. Metalling of the following roads, at least the portions within the town limits:—*viz.* the roads to Verapuzha, Chathanad, Vadakkekkara and Chennamangalam.

4. There was a ferry across the river midway between Parur and Vadakkekkara, which was being daily crossed by many persons including school boys and girls. It was necessary that a bridge should be constructed at this place at once. In case that was not possible, a wooden bridge at least might be constructed there.

Dewan's reply.—An estimate will be called for from the Chief Engineer for the construction of a wooden bridge at the place. The other points are noted.

165. Desirability of establishing Village Boards.

Mr. N. Narayana Panikkar (Member, Tiruvalla taluk) spoke about the necessity of establishing Village Boards and entrusting to them the supervision of Agriculture, Education, Industries, Medical aid and means of communication within the limits of its jurisdiction. He also suggested that each village should comprise not less than 500 and not more than 2,000 houses, that the Members and Presidents of the Boards should be elected by the voters who either paid a minimum assessment of Rs. 10 per annum or had a minimum annual saving of Rs. 200 and that the Boards should have the power to collect a cess from the inhabitants to supplement the grants from Government and to get Agricultural Loans and organise Co-operative societies as well as have a voice in the registry of *puduval* lands within its limits. He requested that the Boards be established simultaneously with the reorganised Legislative Council.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

166. Grievances of the Agriculturists of the Shencottah taluk.

Mr. S. Subramonia Karayalar B. A. (Member, Shencottah taluk) said that paddy cultivation in the taluk was suffering from want of sufficient water in the irrigation tanks. In order to ensure an unfailing supply, he suggested that the Palaruvi should be diverted and a reservoir constructed to store the water. He understood

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that an estimate had been called for from the Chief Engineer, but that nothing further was done and stated that the difficulties of the ryots would not be over until the scheme was completed.

He then suggested that manure should be issued to the ryots on the credit system.

Loans under the Agricultural Improvement Loans Regulation were not being issued for the sinking of wells to the extent desired. Interest on such loans below Rs. 300 should be reduced.

The following improvements to the means of communication in the taluk were also suggested :—

1. A bridge across the river at Puthur and the improvement of the road leading to Mulakarachanpara mettu.

2. A road from Puliyara to the new Railway Station at Bhagavathipuram.

3. Improvement of the road from Puliyara to the Arienkavu Railway tunnel.

4. A road from Munnuvaikal (cusba) to Karkudy.

5. A bridge across the river at Aykudi connecting it with Varadayyan Gramom.

He also proposed the formation of an Irrigation Board for the Quilon Division, and urged that the *marakals* and *padis* used in the Shencotta taluk should be examined and stamped by the taluk authorities before they were issued for use, in order to prevent the use of fraudulent measures. Lastly, he protested against the ryots being forced to sell their paddy at reduced rates when the prices of all other necessaries had gone high.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar and the Executive Engineer, Quilon Division, have been ordered to conduct a joint inspection of the routes from Puliyara to the Bhagavathipuram Railway Station. The other points are noted.

167. Hardships experienced by the poor on account of the levy of duty on head-loads of firewood.

Mr. S. Subramonia Karayalar B. A. (Member, Shencotta taluk) represented that the levy of a duty on head-loads of fire-wood removed from the forests was a great hardship to the poor people. Removal of firewood free of duty was permitted till recently and the duty was a recent impost. The poor women who were making a living had to undergo much difficulty and inconvenience for getting the pass, for which each had to pay 9 pies, and which they had to show to the authorities in the forest. The average monthly receipts amounted only to about Rs. 20 and the system prevailed only in the Shencotta taluk. He, therefore, suggested its abolition without delay.

Dewan's reply.—The matter will be looked into.

168. Certain suggestions regarding the Education of Mahomedans.

Mr. Gnaniar Sayyid Taha Sahib (Member, Nominated) said that the Mahomedan community was very backward in education and requested Government to make every effort to improve their condition. The first thing to be done in the matter was the appointment of a Mahomedan Inspector who was well acquainted with Arabic. He was aware that the appointment had been sanctioned and prayed that a suitable person might soon be nominated.

Dewan's reply.— The matter is under consideration.

169. Need for the re-constitution of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly based on statutory enactment.

Mr. N. Govinda Pillai (Member, Ettumanur taluk) first conveyed the grateful acknowledgments of the people of his taluk to the Dewan for the ready and favorable reply he gave to the representation about the school-building.

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